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KARSCH'S

Shoe Talk to Mothers.

It doesn't make one bit of difference how tough your boy is, or how healthy and hearty your girl may be; when you fit them with a pair of

KARSCH'S

School Shoes

You put their feet right where they can't kick through in a hurry. They are such pretty shoes that you would not look for so much hard wear in them—but it's all there, and

OUR SHOES GIVE SATISFACTION.

J. M. KARSCH SHOE COMPANY,

Cash Shoe Dealers,

Farmington, Mo.

The School Fund.

PLAN OF INVESTMENT CLEARLY EXPLAINED BY GOV. DOCKERY.

Substantial Reasons Why the Proposed Constitutional Amendment Should Carry.

In a speech at California, Mo., last Friday, Governor Dockery gave the following brief explanation of the state school fund and of the proposed Constitutional Amendment.

The bonded debt of the State, exclusive of the school certificates, is now only \$487,000, and all of these outstanding bonds will be paid during the next few months. Missouri will thus be entirely emancipated from the Republican bonded debt of \$21,768,000, which the Democratic party inherited in 1873. The school certificates are a part of the public debt, and are classed as "certificates" for convenience in bookkeeping and accounting. They are, in fact, bonds of the State, and their language differs from the language of the original bond issue in one respect only. The original bond issue was made payable to "bearer," and the title to the bonds could pass by transfer from hand to hand. A stolen bond, therefore, would be a loss to the school fund to the extent of the value of the bond. To obviate the possibility of loss to this sacred fund, by theft or otherwise, the Legislature directed the school monies to be invested in bonds or "certificates," payable only to the State Board of Education, in trust for the children of the State. They are nonnegotiable and nontransferable, but are none the less bonds of the State. A bond of the State is a promise of the State to pay money, and this promise to "bearer," and thus payable to any one who may chance to "bear" the bond; or it may be, as in the case of the "certificates," a bond payable to a single individual or board and nonnegotiable.

There is no provision of the Constitution declaring the exact language of a bond. Under our laws a promissory note may be either negotiable or nonnegotiable. If negotiable, the words "order" or "bearer" appear in the note, and under such conditions the note is negotiable, and it held by an innocent purchaser before maturity is not subject to "offset." If, however, the note is made payable to a single individual, omitting the negotiable words, it is none the less a note. The only distinction is that in the one case the note is payable to any holder, while in the other case the payment of the note can be demanded only by the party to whom it is due and payable. In other words, there are negotiable notes and non-negotiable notes. These notes are given either by individuals or corporations. In like manner the law recognizes negotiable bonds and non-negotiable bonds. These are authorized by the State, counties or municipalities.

The national government itself issues various forms of bonds. Some are registered bonds and some are coupon bonds, but whatever the phraseology of the bond, it is none the less a bond of the government of the United States. Indeed, the language of the promise to pay by the State is a nonessential element in so far as the obligation of the State to pay is concerned. The bonds of the State may be destroyed, and the State is still liable for the amount of the debt, because, after all, the bond or certificate is only an evidence of the debt. The destruction of the evidence of the debt could not destroy the debt itself.

SCHOOL FUND STATES.

It is claimed by the latter day leadership of the Republican party that the pending School Fund amendment is submitted to "vali-

date" the alleged unconstitutionality of the school certificates. Such a claim is false and wholly at variance with the facts. Even if the Legislature thought at the time this amendment was submitted it was necessary to "validate" the unchallenged action of all the Legislatures during the last three decades, it would be unnecessary, because the Republican party has nominated Judges Whybark and Higbee, who declare that the school certificates are constitutional. The attitude of Messrs. Whybark and Higbee is not the occasion of surprise, inasmuch as these gentlemen could not in honor hold otherwise, because, while members of the Legislature, they voted for the issue of school certificates.

The School Fund amendment is submitted solely because of the fact that, with the extinguishment of the less than half million of dollars of outstanding bonds at the beginning of the coming year, the Legislature will then require the State to pay the school certificates. The school certificates, as heretofore stated, are a part of the public bonded debt, and the Constitution says that "there shall be levied and collected an annual tax sufficient to pay the accruing interest upon the bonded debt of the State and to reduce the principal thereof each year by a sum of not less than \$250,000," etc.

Nearly \$300,000 of school certificates mature the coming year. The State must either pay or renew them. There is no escape under the present Constitution, unless amended by the pending amendment, from the payment of at least \$250,000 of these certificates yearly. The Legislature has therefore wisely submitted to the people an amendment providing for the investment of school monies which may hereafter come into the Treasury "in registered notes, municipal or school district bonds of this State of not less than par value." The amendment also provides for the renewal of the existing certificates and the reduction of the State interest tax from "10 cents on the hundred dollars valuation, now provided for by the statute, to an annual tax not to exceed 3 cents on the hundred dollars valuation." A 3-cent levy will not be necessary, as a levy of 2 1/2 cents on the hundred dollar valuation will be ample, under the present assessment, to meet the annual interest on the school certificates.

NOTE A PERPETUAL DEBT. It is not true, as alleged by reckless Republican partisan newspapers and speakers, that this amendment will create a "perpetual debt." I most earnestly favor the adoption of the School Fund amendment, but if by any reason able construction it could be held to authorize a "perpetual debt," I should oppose it. This debt, I asserted though it is, should be renewed in such form that the people may have the opportunity to pay it at any time they so desire. The amendment, to quote its exact language, simply provides that the Legislature "may renew the certificates of indebtedness as they mature, for such period of time and at such rates of interest as may be provided by law."

It follows, therefore, that the School Fund amendment does not create a "perpetual debt," and it is not submitted to "validate" any alleged unconstitutional action involved in the issue of school certificates. It does, however, continue in the discretion of the people and of the Legislature the existing investment of school monies in its own securities, thus operating to reduce at once State taxation from 25 cents on the \$100 valuation to not more than 17 1/2 cents on the \$100 valuation.

The consideration of this question should be freed from partisan ship. The educational interests of the State are too lofty and too sacred to be involved in the meshes of mere partisan controversy. I

have full faith that the people, without regard to party affiliations, will continue the existing system of investing our school monies under which the educational interests of Missouri have kept pace with the wonderful development of all our productive industries.

For thirty years our splendid educational system has grown, expanded and developed mightily. We now stand upon the threshold of the Twentieth Century. The hum of busy and profitable industry is heard on every hand. It is no time for a change of aggressive and progressive policies. Missouri will take no backward step.

Calls it Flim-Flam.

MR. BRYAN DISSECTS PRESIDENT'S TRUST SPEECHES.

Says Mr. Roosevelt Talks a Great Deal and Means Nothing, Offering No Solution.

W. J. Bryan in his Commoner dissects the recent trust speeches of President Roosevelt and practically accuses the President of "flim-flaming" the people. Mr. Bryan says in part:

"He (Roosevelt) was suddenly ushered into the white house and given a chance to 'shackle cunning,' and he has ever since been apologizing for rather than denouncing trusts. 'Take his Providence speech as an illustration. He spent more time trying to pacify those who criticize the trusts than in pointing out a remedy. Through it runs the idea that the enormous fortunes wrung from the people by monopoly are a natural and necessary result of good times. 'The President fails entirely to distinguish between an association of God-made men, with bodies to feed, families to provide for and with consciences to guide them, and a fictitious person called a corporation organized for gain, having no heart to restrain it here and no soul to punish hereafter. He fails to discriminate between the labor organizations, which have not yet succeeded in securing living wages and reasonable conditions, and the overgrown corporations, which declare enormous dividends on watered stock and enable the managers to become multimillionaires from enforced contributions collected from the people."

"This hiding behind the labor organization is a favorite device of the monopolist and the president betrays his leanings when he falls into the same habit. A careful reading of the president's speech will convince any candid man that the executive is more alarmed lest the people may injure themselves morally by hating the trusts too much than he is lest they be hurt by the trusts. Note his solicitude: 'We are passing through a period of great material prosperity, and such a period is as sure as adversity itself to bring matters of discontent.' Again: 'It is in a spirit of sullen covet that (the people) insist upon putting down those who have profited most by the years of fatness they will bury themselves in the crash of a coming disaster.'"

"No trust magnate could have made a more abject and servile plea for lawless wealth and heartless greed. When we see great corporations violating the laws of the land and riding roughshod over the rights of the people, instead of applying a remedy, we must constantly restrain our indignation for fear the dark and evil vices of envy and hatred will eat into our natures. Instead of trying to catch the horse thief would he lecture the man who lost his horse, and does he think the horse-raising industry would be jeopardized by the complete extermination of the horse thief?"

"He insists that it is highly undesirable to attempt too much or to begin by stringent legislation. Those who are looking for strenuous action in dealing with the trust will find it in the president's speech. It is weak and feeble. Instead of a warrior leading his men up San Juan hill, we see the politician anxious for a renomination and afraid either to ignore the subject or to deal with it firmly and aggressively. The only definite suggestion he makes is in regard to publicity, and even this must be nonpartisan. Publicity as an aid to other remedies would be of no benefit. To expect any real relief to come from mere publicity is as absurd as it would be to propose the repeal of laws against larceny and the substitution of a law simply requiring the thief to file a schedule of the things stolen, and then keep them."

Democratic Management of the State Debt

A Brief Statement of the Reduction of the Principal of the Bonded Debt and the Annual Amount of Interest Paid Thereon During the Last Thirty Years.

When the Republican party went out of power in Missouri thirty years ago, it left to the people a heritage of debt amounting to \$21,768,000.

The Democratic party took up the burden of administration in January, 1873. During the thirty years that have passed since then the Democratic administrations have paid out for the retirement of bonds, in cancellation of the Republican debt, \$18,301,895.85. They have likewise expended, to meet the accruing interest during that period, the sum of \$22,186,338.33, together with \$625,256.41, for premiums on bonds purchased, the pay of fiscal agents, etc. Included in this interest are the sums paid to counties for the support of the public schools, such sums accruing from interests on the school and seminary fund certificates.

It will be remembered that the Republican bonded indebtedness—which had been amply secured by first mortgages on railroad property, but which securities were corruptly disposed of by the Republican administrations, following the war for less than one-fourth of their value—bore 6 and 7 per cent interest. If you ever borrowed money you will understand how quickly the interest will come to equal or exceed the principal. Following are the interest payments, by years, on the State debt since December 31, 1872:

Late News Paragraphs.

The Mexican-American bull fight, which took place at Shawnee, Ok., last Thursday night was attended by nearly 3,000 people.

For the first time in the history of Cornell University a woman will enter the engineering department. The woman is Miss Nora Stanton Blatch of London, Eng.

George J. Gould gave out the report last Thursday that a merger of the Gould railways will soon take place. The Missouri Pacific and Iron Mountain railways will absorb the Cotton Belt.

The funeral of former Justice Horace Gray of the United States Supreme Court took place at Boston on the 18th. The service was conducted by the Reverend William Lawrence, Bishop of Massachusetts.

The Sovereign Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows was in session at Des Moines, Ia., last week. Twenty-five thousand members of the order participated in the parade which took place last Friday afternoon.

The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad, with James J. Hill at its head, has secured options on 41,000 acres of coal lands near Springfield. In the event of a purchase the railroad will pay out \$1,000,000.

The enrollment of the State University at Columbia, Mo., is at present 1,187. This is only 36 less than the total enrollment for the whole of last year. The enrollment this year will be the largest in the history of the school.

The Individual Fire Underwriters Company of St. Louis, with a capital stock of \$250,000, was licensed last Thursday by Superintendent of Insurance Ed Yates, to do a fire insurance business in Missouri. Twenty-five prominent St. Louisans are stockholders.

Capt. Berthold Ladd of Doniphan, Mo., Captain of Company E of the Sixth Missouri regiment, left St. Louis on the 16th for New Orleans and from there will go to San Antonio to become a member of the insurgent forces in Colombia under General Herrera.

It is reported in a dispatch from Philadelphia, that every coal carrying railroad in the strike district may be tied up by a great strike of telegraph and telephone operators, if any attempt is made to send a substantial supply of Anthracite coal to the markets.

An old minister about to leave his church made the following farewell address: 'Brothers and sisters, I must bid you good bye. The Lord don't love this church, for I never bury any of you; you don't love each other for I never marry any of you; you don't love me for you haven't paid me my salary. Your contributions are mostly rotten potatoes and worn out apples, and by your trade shall ye be judged.' I am going to a better place than this. I am going to be chaplain of the penitentiary. Whether I go or not, but I go to prepare a place for you.' The Lord have mercy on your souls, Amen."—Ex.

1873	\$ 1,050,788.56
1874	1,031,822.95
1875	1,035,792.99
1876	1,160,037.85
1877	547,991.22
1878	1,321,735.47
1879	607,483.09
1880	1,407,778.05
1881	1,125,592.57
1882	1,040,457.06
1883	880,388.03
1884	786,821.91
1885	1,379,962.69
1886	929,933.14
1887	825,554.30
1888	675,040.67
1889	612,606.62
1890	565,353.00
1891	548,596.16
1892	591,548.35
1893	571,438.80
1894	507,513.57
1895	471,611.66
1896	448,857.80
1897	416,374.57
1898	391,984.40
1899	349,375.41
1900	314,857.33
1901	55,993.28
1902	
Total interest paid	\$22,186,338.33

The total outstanding school and seminary certificates—for which an equal amount of State bonds have been cancelled—is \$4,393,839.42, interest on which is used for the support of the public schools.

This leaves remaining a total State indebted of \$487,000, exclusive of the amount held in trust for the school funds.

The Democratic party is proud of this record and challenges comparison with the Republican regime, when farm lands were taxed 50 cents on the \$100 valuation and railroads nothing, whereas now the tax rate is only 25 cents on the \$100—less than that of any State in the Union—while railroads are assessed \$11.440 per mile.

The "Kid" Wanted to Know.

From the Hannibal Journal.

"Say, pop, since we had that talk about school books the other day, I've been thinking, trying to understand why it is that Republican newspapers published in Missouri and which make their living off Missouri people are everlastingly telling lies on the state."

"Suppose I'd go out in town every afternoon and scatter the report that you had whipped me."

"That sister had fits and wasn't very smart."

"That we never use napkins 'cept when we have company."

"That we rob our neighbors every time we have a chance."

"Don't you think I'd soon ruin the reputation of the whole family and have everybody giving us the cold shoulder—keeping away from us?"

"Looks to me like a state is good deal like a home. If we keep telling that school books are higher in Missouri than in Kansas, when we know it's a fib, why we'll send people to Kansas."

"If we tell that the state is afflicted by a band of robbers and cut-throats that have robbed the treasury of 'seven millions of dollars, when there's not a cent missing—strangers are not apt to hanker for a home in Missouri."

"If we go out and spread the news that the school fund has been looted, when we know there is not a word of truth in it—parents hunting for a place to educate their children will give Missouri a wide berth."

"If we go about with 'Poor Old Missouri' on our lips when it's the best state in the Union—don't look like to me that we could expect home-seekers to think very well of us."

"Why don't the Republican newspapers tell the truth about the state and help build it up? Why don't they tell about the low tax rate in Missouri, and all the good things that even I, a boy, have learned about the state? Seems to me if I were a man and cared enough for the state to live in it, that's what I'd do—Republican or Democrat. It's against the interest of every citizen of the state to fib on Missouri."

"Them's my sentiments, pop."

Lightest Wood That Grows.

Deep in the bogs and swamps of Southeastern Missouri, in Dunklin and Butler counties, where the land is never dry and water from one to six feet deep stands perpetually in the forests, there grows a rare and curious tree. The natives know it as the corkwood, or cork tree, says the Kansas City Star. Science has given it a longer name, the *Leitneria floridana*, *floridana* because it was first discovered in Florida along the coast from which it has long since been washed away. Some meager specimens of it, two to six feet high, are still found in the swamp near Appalachicola, Fla., and a few at Vauver, Ark., but in both of these places it is exceedingly limited in numbers, an occasional specimen being found that hardly rises to the dignity of a tree. Only in St. Louis, where it reaches a height of fifteen to twenty feet and a diameter of two to five inches, is it really a tree.

THE FINISHING TOUCHES ADDED.

Mr. P. S. Cole has returned from the St. Louis markets where he purchased the goods necessary to put the finishing touches upon one of the biggest and best-selected stocks of up-to-date fall and winter goods ever brought to this county.

You Are Cordially Invited

To give us a call. We are never too busy to show you through our immense piles of bargains in every department of our mammoth stock. Our goods are marked in plain figures.

The Farmer's Produce

Is one of our main stays. We pay him more for it and buy more of it than almost anyone. Bring it to us and get the top market figures. Respectfully,

COLE & NIXON, Farmington, Missouri.

covered in Florida along the coast

from which it has long since been washed away. Some meager specimens of it, two to six feet high, are still found in the swamp near Appalachicola, Fla., and a few at Vauver, Ark., but in both of these places it is exceedingly limited in numbers, an occasional specimen being found that hardly rises to the dignity of a tree. Only in St. Louis, where it reaches a height of fifteen to twenty feet and a diameter of two to five inches, is it really a tree.

What makes the corkwood so remarkable is its exceeding lightness. Beyond a doubt it is, as Mr. Wm. Trelease, of the Missouri Botanical Garden has shown, the lightest tree in weight that grows. Its wood weighs less than cork. It is so light that the natives use it to make floats for their fishing nets. And yet its wood, though so spongy that one may easily sink one's finger nail in it, is far tougher than cork. The specific gravity of corkwood, as learned from careful tests made by Prof. Nipher in St. Louis is .207. The roots are even lighter than the stem; a test showed them to have the astonishingly low specific gravity of .151.

A further idea of the lightness of the corkwood may be gained by a comparison with the other woods, the great majority of which range from .40 to .80. Cork itself is .24. The tree that approaches closest to the corkwood in lightness is the golden fir tree, growing in swamps around Tampa Bay and along the Indian River, Florida. Its specific gravity, according to Sargent, is .216. In comparison with corkwood, which is the lightest wood with its specific gravity of .207, may be placed the heaviest wood known, the black iron wood of Florida, whose specific gravity is 1.301.

One of Bret Harte's Stories.

The late Bret Harte told a tale of a young lady who arrived late one night on a visit to a friend. She awoke in the darkness to find a white figure at the foot of the bed. While she watched, the counterpane was suddenly whisked off, and the apparition vanished. After an anxious, not to say, chilly, night, the visitor went down with little appetite for breakfast. At the table she was introduced to a gentleman, a very old friend of the family, who had, she learned, also been sleeping in the house. He complained of the cold. "I hope you will excuse me," he said to the hostess; "but I found it so cold during the night that, knowing the room next to mine was unoccupied, I took the liberty of going in and carrying off some of the bedclothes to supplement my own."

The room, as is obvious, was not unoccupied, but he never learned the mistake.

Lieut. Robert E. Perry has returned from his North Pole expedition, having reached the latitude 64.17, the "farthest north" of any American explorer, but failed by 513 geographical miles to reach the ultimate goal of Arctic discovery. It is said that Lieut. Perry will probably never lead another expedition in quest of the North Pole.

Ye Spinal Column

(Being a Column Devoted to Those Things which Make the Little Thrills of Mirth Chase One another Up and Down the Backbone.)

Our neighbors. Well, they're hard to hate to make complaint. (Just half the people in our St. Louis would aggravate a St.—Ex.)

He—Say, kid, don't you ever take a bath?

Kid—No sir, I don't have to; I sweat a good deal.

She—I wonder how that little child got in.

He—On his face, I suppose.

She—Well, it certainly looks dirty enough.—Ex.

"Don't you admire foot ball, Clara?"

"I detest it. Perry got his earlobe broken, and I can't put my head on his shoulder for a month."

The man who put green goggles on his cow and then fed her sawdust, lived long, long ago, when times were hard and cows were foolish, but they do say that there be men living not a thousand miles from Farmington who might do that same thing if they should think of it.

They had a dispute and agreed to leave it to the military expert. "What bullet," they asked, "do you consider the deadliest?" For several minutes he remained in a brown study. Then he looked up with the air of one who had settled the matter finally and definitely. "The one that hits," he said.—Tit-Bits.

NEW RENDERING OF THE ANCIENT TALE.

Balaam's ass stopped before the watering trough. Suddenly he began to weep. "What is the matter now?" asked Balaam somewhat testily. The mule's eyes were leaking fast.

"Alas!" he exclaimed, "you have driven me to drink."

A COVEYED RECEIPT. Agent—Here sir, is a book that should be in every family. It contains a receipt for everything, sir—everything.

Cheily—Give me three copies. If it has a receipt for my tailor's bill I'll take five.

ADVICE TO CHILDREN. Be gentle to the Crocodile, And tender to the Whale; Don't jeer at the Hyena's snarl; Or tweak the Tiger's tail. Don't stick pins in the Kangaroo; Don't giggle at the Goose; Don't throw bricks at the Cockatoo, Or tread upon the Sloth. Don't fog the Hippopotamus; Don't pull the Serpent's ears; Don't pester the Rhinoceros, Or chase the Chamois-deers. Don't tickle the Dromedary's feet, Or whip the gentle Gnu; To animals be kind and sweet, Whatever else you do.

Caroline Wells, in Life.

Henry Clay as an Actor.

A well-known traveler of Chicago tells an interesting story in the Louisville Courier Journal about Henry Clay, the great Kentucky statesman, then a well-known lawyer.

"A man was once being tried for murder, and his case looked hopeless indeed. He had, without any seeming provocation, murdered one of his neighbors in cold blood. Not a lawyer in the county would touch the case. It looked bad enough to ruin the reputation of any barrister."

"The man, as a last extremity, appealed to Mr. Clay to take the case for him. Every one thought that Clay would certainly refuse. But when the celebrated lawyer looked into the matter his fighting blood was roused, and to the great surprise of all, he accepted."

"Then came a trial the like of which I have never seen. Clay slowly carried on the case, and it looked more and more hopeless. The only ground of defense that the prisoner had was that the murdered man had looked at him with such a fierce, murderous look that out of self defense he had struck first. A ripple passed through the jury at this evidence."

"The time came for Clay to make his defense. It was settled in the minds of the spectators that the man was guilty of murder in the first degree. 'Clay calmly proceeded, laid all the proofs before them in his masterly way. Then, just as he was about to conclude, he played his last master card.'

"Gentlemen of the jury," he said, assuming the fiercest, blackest look and carrying the most undying hatred in it that I have ever seen, 'gentlemen, if a man should look at you like this, what would you do?'

"That was all he said, but that was enough, and the jury were startled, and some even quailed in their seats. The judge moved uneasily on his bench. After fifteen minutes the jury filed slowly back with a 'Not guilty, your honor.' The victory was complete."

When Clay was congratulated on his easy victory he said: 'It was not so easy as you think. I spent days and days in my room before the mirror practicing that look. It took more hard work to give that look than to investigate the most obtuse case.'

Didn't Turn Out the Gas.

From the New York Times.

Senator Ellsworth tells the following story of a Western farmer who was visiting Albany for the first time:

"While standing in the lobby of the state capital at Albany, talking to some friends a few weeks ago, I was introduced by one of my colleagues to a typical Western farmer, who had just arrived in the city the night before, and was being shown around the capitol building. The old fellow had never been in a large town before in his life, and after telling me in his own quaint way of some of the sights and places he had seen in the city the previous night, he suddenly turned to me in somewhat confidential tones:

"Say, before leaving home I had read about them fellows that blow out the gas and get suffocated, and I wasn't fooled by that darned thing up in my room in the hotel. I seen a light in a glass bottle hanging on the end of a string, whilst it was a-hoppin' from one joint ter another, it hopped into his wooden leg, and he pulled it out an' th'owed it in de fire, an' it so de rheumatism was terotally exorcised."—Albany Constitution.